

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /082 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE CWSCHALLER:DP

APPROVED BY EUR AAHARTMAN

EUR:RDVINE

EUR/NE - JJCROWLEY

----- 051828

R 131357Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T STATE 191452

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORGN US, EI

SUBJECT: US INTERESTS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR
IRELAND 1975.

1. AS A RESULT OF INTERAGENCY DISCUSSION AND REVIEW,
FOLLOWING SHORT-TERM POLICY OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED
AND APPROVED FOR US-IRISH RELATIONS. THIS TEXT DREW ON
HELPFUL AND PERCEPTIVE ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT PROVIDED
BY DUBLIN'S 613. FOLLOWING TEXT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS
CURRENT POLICY GUIDANCE SUPPLANTING EXISTING PARA.

1. WE PLAN TO DISCUSS SUBSEQUENTLY WITH EMBASSY HOW THIS
STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES SHOULD FIT IN WITH FUTURE
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ANNUAL ASSESSMENT SUBMISSIONS AS WELL AS QUESTION OF MOST
APPROPRIATE TIMING OF ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR
FUTURE YEARS.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

UNITED STATES INTERESTS

A. THE MAINTENANCE OF A DEMOCRATIC AND POLITICALLY STABLE IRISH SOCIETY. OUR OTHER INTERESTS IN IRELAND, AND

WESTERN EUROPE GENERALLY, WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED IF POLITICAL EXTREMISTS AND EXPONENTS OF VIOLENCE WERE TO THREATEN THE STABILITY OF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED

DUBLIN GOVERNMENTS AS A RESULT OF FURTHER COMMUNAL CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

B. THE CONTINUATION OF A SOUND IRISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE US/EC RELATIONSHIP. THE IRISH MAY BE PREPARED TO FURTHER EC POLICIES WE FAVOR IF THESE DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THEIR

NATIONAL INTERESTS AND ARE FULLY DISCUSSED WITH THEM ON A CONTINUING BASIS.

C. THE PROMOTION OF US ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN IRELAND.

D. THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTELLIGENT AND SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE US AMONG THE IRISH PEOPLE.

E. THE CULTIVATION OF INCREASING IRISH PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE WEST. WHILE NOT A NATO MEMBER IRELAND, ACCORDING TO ITS LEADERS' PRONOUNCEMENTS, IS NOT IDEOLOGICALLY NEUTRAL. ITS EC-9 MEMBERSHIP DOES MUCH TO ENSURE FULFILLMENT OF THIS US INTEREST, BUT WE SHOULD BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN IRISH TIES WITH THE WEST.

UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES

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A. THE MAINTENANCE OF IRISH POLITICAL STABILITY

- -- USE ALL AVAILABLE LEGAL MEANS ACTIVELY TO DISCOURAGE US FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM, INCLUDING REFUSAL OF VISAS FOR IRA AND PROTESTANT PARA-MILITARY FUNDRAISERS AND MOVING AGAINST ILLEGAL AMERICAN PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT.

- -- ENCOURAGE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE USG WITH ANY EVIDENCE IT HAS ON AMERICAN SUPPORTED IRA ARMS SHIPMENTS.

- -- AS APPROPRIATE, ENCOURAGE THE IRISH IN THE REPUBLIC

TO MAKE REFORMS NECESSARY TO EASE NORTH-SOUTH TENSIONS.

- -- AS APPROPRIATE, ENCOURAGE THE NORTHERN PROTESTANTS TO ADMIT CATHOLICS AS FULL PARTNERS IN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY, AND BE ALERT TO POSSIBILITIES OF A SPLIT BETWEEN

CONSERVATIVE AND RADICAL "LOYALIST" POLITICIANS.

- -- ENCOURAGE THE UK TO RETAIN PEACEKEEPING TROOPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND UNTIL A STABLE POLITICAL SOLUTION HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

- -- CONSIDER UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES SHOULD THE UK PREPARE TO WITHDRAW.

- -- ESTABLISH A US GOVERNMENT INTERAGENCY GROUP:
(A) TO IDENTIFY LIKELY SCENARIOS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND POLICY OPTIONS OPEN TO THE US UNDER EACH; AND (B) TO DEFINE THE NATURE OF PRESSURES BY IRISH-AMERICAN GROUPS FOR US INVOLVEMENT SHOULD THE SITUATION DETERIORATE, AND DETERMINE WHAT THE USG RESPONSE TO SUCH PRESSURES SHOULD BE.

B. IMPROVE THE IRISH CONTRIBUTION TO US/EC RELATIONS

- -- IMPROVE OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH IRELAND ON EC MATTERS AND ENLIST IRISH SUPPORT FOR EC POLICIES WE FAVOR.

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C. PROMOTE US ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN IRELAND

- -- CONTINUE EMBASSY TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS, INCLUDING PROMPT IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

- -- USE THE LONDON TRADE CENTER FACILITIES TO PUBLICIZE TRADE SHOWS AND ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY IRISH BUSINESSMEN.

- -- EXAMINE THE DECREASING US SHARE OF THE IRISH MARKET, ESTABLISH WHETHER THIS ENTAILS ADVERSE LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, AND TAKE WHAT STEPS ARE POSSIBLE TO REVERSE THE TREND.

- -- DETERMINE MORE CLEARLY WHETHER THE EXPANDING IRISH AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT US SALES TO THE EC.

D. FOSTER IRISH UNDERSTANDING OF THE US

- -- CONSIDER WHETHER AN INCREASE IN THE INTERNATIONAL

VISITOR PROGRAM BUDGET IS JUSTIFIED.

- -- PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON CHOOSING CANDIDATES FOR THE IV PROGRAM WHO ARE INFLUENTIAL OPINION MAKERS,

INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND'S INCREASING ORIENTATION TOWARD THE EC.

- -- HAVE EMBASSY DUBLIN DEFINE AS PRECISELY AS POSSIBLE THE PROBLEM OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN IRELAND TOWARD THE US.

- -- CONSIDER AUGMENTING EMBASSY DUBLIN'S PUBLIC AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUDGET FOR LECTURES, SEMINARS AND OTHER CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMS BASED ON EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN IRELAND TOWARD THE US.

- -- ENCOURAGE ESTABLISHMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES IN IRISH UNIVERSITIES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

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- -- CARRY OUT A MEANINGFUL, HIGH-VISIBILITY PROGRAM TO MARK THE US BICENTENNIAL.

- -- CONTINUE TO PROMOTE FAIR, BALANCED COVERAGE OF THE US IN IRISH MEDIA.

E. CULTIVATE IRISH TIES WITH THE WEST.

- -- MAINTAIN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE MAXIMUM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND IRELAND ON ISSUES IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND IN OTHER MULTILATERAL FORA.

- -- THROUGH MULTILATERAL FORA SUCH AS THE OECD, ENCOURAGE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT POLICIES CONDUCTIVE TO STABILITY AND SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH.

- -- BE RECEPTIVE TO ANY IRISH WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS DEFENSE MATTERS WITH US, OR TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY OF MILITARY NEUTRALITY EITHER BY JOINING NATO OR BY JOINING A EUROPEAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT WITHIN THE EC-9 FRAMEWORK.
- KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANNUAL REPORTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE191452
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE CWSCHALLER:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750280-0364
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197508100/baaaarwk.tel
Line Count: 210
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971002
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, EI, US, PFOR
To: DUBLIN INFO BELFAST
LONDON
NATO
USUN N Y
OECD PARIS EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006